

SENATE BILL 3250

By Bunch

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 2, to enact the "Education Pays Act". This act makes appropriations for monetary awards to encourage student academic achievement for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Education Pays Act".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 2, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 49-1-2\_\_.

(a) No later than August 1, 2008, the department of education shall establish an Education Pays pilot program to encourage student academic achievement through monetary rewards. The pilot program shall be created in the three (3) school systems having the largest numbers of students eligible for free and reduced price lunch pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 1751-1769. At the end of each semester, the department, from funds specifically appropriated for the pilot program, shall award a student receiving an Education Pays academic achievement award one hundred dollars (\$100). The custodial parent or guardian of such student shall also receive an award of fifty dollars (\$50.00) from the department.

(b)

(1) The LEA having the most students eligible for free and reduced price lunch shall select one (1) school with students enrolled in some or all of the grades nine through twelve (9-12). The two hundred (200) students in one (1) or more grade levels in the selected school with

the highest grade averages at the end of each semester shall receive the Education Pays academic award.

(2) The LEA having the second largest number of students eligible for free and reduced price lunch shall select one (1) school with students enrolled in some or all of the grades five through eight (5-8). The seventy-five (75) students in one (1) or more grade levels in the selected school with the highest grade averages at the end of each semester shall receive the Education Pays academic award.

(3) The LEA having the third largest number of students eligible for free and reduced price lunch shall select one (1) school with students enrolled in some or all of the grades one through four (1-4). The fifty (50) students in one (1) or more grade levels in the selected school with the highest grade averages at the end of each semester shall receive the Education Pays academic award.

(4) An LEA shall consider as one (1) factor in the selection of a school pursuant to subdivision (b)(1), (2) or (3) the number of students enrolled in the school who are eligible for free and reduced price lunch. An LEA shall select the number of grade levels eligible to receive the Education Pays academic achievement award so that the number of students receiving the award approximates twenty-five percent (25%) of each grade level that the LEA selects.

SECTION 3. In addition to any other funds specifically appropriated for the Education Pays pilot program for student achievement in the general appropriations act, there is hereby appropriated for fiscal year 2008-2009 a sum sufficient to fund this act from the funds remaining

unawarded by the secretary of state at the close of business on June 30, 2008, for community enhancement grants pursuant to Section 68 of Chapter 603 of the Public Acts of 2007.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.